

## TROPICAL DISTURBANCE OF AUGUST 1939

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There was one well-defined tropical disturbance in August 1939. It originated in Atlantic waters northeast of Puerto Rico on the 8th, moved west-northwestward across Florida and the extreme northeastern Gulf, then progressed very slowly through Alabama, where it was nearly stationary for 3 days, and thereafter moved more rapidly northeastward to southeastern New York where it dissipated on the 20th. On the 30th and 31st, there were indications of a slight disturbance over the extreme eastern Caribbean Sea but no further evidences of it were reported after the end of the month.

August 8-20.—The first definite evidence of this disturbance was on August 8. During the day several ships in the general vicinity of 22° N., 66° W. reported easterly winds of force 6 and rough seas. The disturbance moved west-northwestward during the next 3 days, crossing the Bahamas late on the 10th and early on the 11th. The center reached the east coast of Florida in the late afternoon of the 11th. Its progressive movement had increased gradually from about 10 miles an hour on the 8th to approximately 15 miles an hour on the 10th and 11th. Ship reports do not indicate that it was of more than moderate intensity in the Atlantic. The highest wind noted on shipboard was force 10. The American steamship Pan Amoco reported by radio at 7 p. m., August 11, when located at 27.6° N., 79.6° W., wind E., force 10, barometer 1,005 millibars (29.68 inches).

On the east coast the lowest pressure and highest wind were recorded at Fort Pierce, 991.2 millibars (29.27 inches) and 54 miles per hour.

In crossing Florida the rate of progression increased to about 18 miles per hour, while the intensity of the disturbance did not change materially. The center passed very close to Lakeland and Tarpon Springs and moved to the extreme northeastern Gulf on the 12th. At the Tampa Airport the highest wind was 62, south-southwest at 4:30 a. m. on the 12th, the lowest pressure 998.6 millibars (29.49 inches).

Late in the afternoon of the 12th the disturbance entered western Florida near Apalachicola, the center passing over Port St. Joe, at 6 p. m., eastern standard time. At Apalachicola, lowest pressure was 990.9 millibars (29.26 inches) at 6 p. m., the highest wind 52, northeast at 4:18 p. m. A lull followed, with velocities averaging 26 miles per hour, after which the wind increased to 46 south at 6:45 p. m. The storm center also passed over Panama City and St. Andrews, the lowest reported pressure at the latter place being 988.5 millibars (29.19 inches) at 9:10 p. m.

The following comments on damage by the storm are taken from the report of Forecaster Norton at Jacksonville:

In peninsular Florida the damage by this storm was minor in character, as would be expected for a storm of only moderate

intensity. It appears that damage was confined to uprooted trees, broken power and communication lines, plate-glass windows, a few flimsy structures, roofs, signs, cornices, etc., with damage to crops negligible, although some citrus fruit was damaged and seedbeds flooded and damaged. A few small boats were beached and damaged, but small craft generally had been moved to safe anchorage well in advance of the storm. A man was drowned at Cedar Key when the rowboat in which he was attending the anchorage of fishing boats capsized in the rough sea. This was the only death attributed to the storm. In the northwestern counties from about Tallahassee to Pensacola, considerable damage to crops by flooding and wind resulted.

After about 4 days in Alabama, where disastrous flooding rains fell, the remnants of the disturbance moved over the northern portion of the Jacksonville district, attended by heavy rains and some flooding along the southern and eastern slopes of the Appalachian Mountains. A tornado on the periphery of the disturbance is reported to have killed one person in North Carolina, but otherwise no very strong winds attended the disturbance in its northeastern movement in this district.

In reporting on conditions in the vicinity of Apalachicola, Forecaster Dyke at New Orleans says:

Winds of gale force occurred as far inland as De Funiak Springs, in Walton County and about 26 miles from the coast. As the stronger winds were offshore, no high tides occurred west of Apalachicola. Tides were above normal from Apalachicola northeast-

ward to St. Marks but not high enough to cause appreciable damage.

The principal damage was to electric power, telephone, and telegraph lines. There was some damage to roofs. Most of the hoats were safely placed, but a few unguarded small boats were sunk at Apalachicola. Damage of \$2,000 to a dock warehouse at Port St. Joe is reported.

In Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, and extreme southeastern New York, heavy rains attended the remnants of the storm while it was moving northeastward during the period from the 18th to the 20th. At several places the records of rainfall in 24 hours were broken. Tuckerton, N. J., had 14.81 inches.

Timely reports, especially those received from stations in the Bahamas and from merchant ships, enabled the forecasters to chart the storm center with exceptional accuracy. Advices and warnings were issued frequently and well in advance of the storm.

Chart XIII shows the track of the disturbance and the situation on the morning of August 12 when the center was moving across the extreme northeastern Gulf of Mexico.

## NOTES AND REVIEWS

DAVID BRUNT. Physical and Dynamical Meteorology. Second edition, 428 pp., Cambridge; at the University Press. New York; The Macmillan Co. 1939.

The first edition of this volume was published five years ago, in 1934; it remains the only general textbook and manual of mathematical meteorology in the English language. In preparing the second edition, many portions of the text have been revised, rewritten, or amplified.

The book is devoted entirely to the physical theory of the dynamic and thermodynamic phenomena in the earth's atmosphere, so far as possible in mathematical form. The comparatively small amount of descriptive material enters in only an incidental way; and there is no attempt at the discussion of weather forecasting, climatic phenomena, atmospheric optics, or other branches

of the physics of the air.

The first chapter contains a brief summary of the normal distribution of temperature, pressure, and winds over the globe, the distribution of temperature in the upper air, and other basic facts of observation for which a satisfactory mathematical theory must account. The succeeding chapters discuss the fundamental static equations for the atmosphere, atmospheric stability, the thermodynamic theory of condensation, and atmospheric thermodynamics in general. Three chapters are then devoted to the role of radiation and absorption in meteorological phenomena, including the theory of the stratosphere.

The general equations of motion of the atmosphere referred to the surface of the rotating earth are then formulated, the circulation theorems developed, and the theory of the gradient wind constructed. A chapter is devoted to the dynamical theory of surfaces of discontinuity; a chapter on the general theory of turbulence is followed by a lengthy chapter on the role of atmospheric turbulence in the transfer of heat and momentum, and its effects on atmospheric stability and the variation of wind velocity with height, together with applications to the theory of evaporation into the atmosphere.

After a brief chapter in which the dynamical equations are made the basis for a classification of winds, the transformations and dissipation of energy in the atmosphere are treated, together with the theory of vortical motion

in the atmosphere.

The remaining chapters of the book contrast strongly with the preceding part, in the almost complete absence of mathematical equations and in consisting predominantly of descriptive material or only generalized qualitative physical reasoning. These chapters deal with the phenomena of air masses, the frontal structure of cyclones, a review of various theoretical conceptions of cyclones and their structure in the upper air, anticyclones, and finally the general circulation of the atmosphere. Edgar W. Woolard.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

(RICHMOND T. ZOCH, in Charge of Library)

By AMY P. LESHER

## RECENT ADDITIONS

The following have been selected from among the titles of books recently received as representing those most likely to be useful to Weather Bureau officials in their meteorological work and studies:

Académie des sciences de l'U. R. S. S. Classe des sciences mathématiques et naurelles.

Bulletin. [Meteorological extracts.] Moscow. 1934-37. v. p. tables, diagrs. 25 cm.

Démidenko, T., & Barinova, R. L'influence des engrais sur la résistance de la betterave à la sécheresse du sol. Résumé. p. 600-603. (Série biologique. 1937, no. 2.)

Gorbačev, S. V. Investigation of elementary processes in aerosols. Summary. p. 873-874. (Série chimique. 1936, no. 5)

Lukirsky, P. Investigation of surface ionisation. Summary.

Lukirsky, P. Investigation of surface ionisation. Summary. p. 804. (Série chimique. 1936, no. 5.)

Putilov, K. Eine neue Methode der logischen Entwicklung des zweiten Hauptsatzes der Thermodynamik. Zusammenfassung. p. 733-734. (Série chimique. 1937, no. 4.)

Rehbinder, P. I. Wirkungen der Adsorptionsschichten auf die Eigenschaften disperser Systeme. Zusammenfassung. p. 704-706. (Série chimique. 1936, no. 5.)

Sergeev, L. I. On the resistance of plants to low temperatures. Summary. p. 802. (Série biologique. 1936, no. 4.)

Smirnov, N. On the stimuli of precipitation. Summary. p. 130-131. (Série chimique. 1936, no. 1.)